

Media Statement

For immediate release

Thursday, 14 November 2024

South African Local Government Association (SALGA) UNFCCC COP29 Side-events

Venue : South Africa Pavilion at COP29: Pavilion C14 in the Blue Zone -Baku, Azerbaijan

Side event Topic: Financing the Just Transition and Climate Actions at the Local Level

Date: Saturday 16 November 2024

Time: 16:00 - 17:00

Background:

Local governments are facing the negative impacts extreme climate events, such as severe droughts and heavy rainfalls, that puts basic services and infrastructure under threat. Climate damages on infrastructure and economic sectors, in turn, strain public budgets and reduce the attractiveness for private investors. The session will present the crucial role local governments play when it comes to addressing climate change. As frontline responders to the effects of global warming, they must create sustainable development pathways and transitions for building resilient communities. However, the low carbon resilient society requires a structural change of enormous scale and speed. This requires joint action by all sectors of society and levels of government. Coordinating these efforts and ensuring their coherence within a multi-level governance system is key to driving forward effective, efficient and ambitious climate actions.

Building a Disaster Management System for a Resilient Local Government

Date: Tuesday 19 November 2024

Time: 4:00 - 15:30

Background:

South African municipalities are bearing the brunt of devastating floods that cause loss of life and severe destruction of infrastructure. While disasters cannot always be prevented, global warming and associated climate change is projected to cause severe weather patterns that will become a regular occurrence in this country. As a result, South Africa led by the National Disaster Management Centre is in the process of overhauling its disaster management system to ensure that the disaster management function in the country is geared towards averting the devastating impacts of climate change. As a sector, local government has also realized that simply rebuilding infrastructure without addressing climate change resilience means that communities will remain vulnerable to calamities such as the ones we have witnessed. This session will unpack how South African municipalities can bolster their disaster management function to build climate and disaster resilience. This will also be an opportunity to learn from other countries and world regions who are constantly facing disasters exacerbated by climate change.

Implementing the Just Energy Transition in Local Government

Date: Wednesday 20 November 2024

Time: 15:00 - 16:15

Background:

Local governments are facing the negative impacts extreme climate events, such as severe droughts and heavy rainfalls, that puts basic services and infrastructure under threat. Climate damages on infrastructure and economic sectors, in turn, strain public budgets and reduce the attractiveness for private investors. The session will present the crucial role local governments play when it comes to addressing climate change. As frontline responders to the effects of global warming, they must create sustainable development pathways and transitions for building resilient communities. However, the low carbon resilient society requires a structural change of enormous scale and speed. This requires joint action by all sectors of society and levels of government. Coordinating these efforts and ensuring their coherence within a multi-level governance system is key to driving forward effective, efficient and ambitious climate actions.

Gender, Just Transitions and Climate Change/ Women, Climate Change and Just Transition

Date: Thursday 21 November 2024

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Background:

This event will focus on the impacts of climate change on women. Women often face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty and due to existing roles, responsibilities and cultural norms. In many societies, women are responsible for household energy, food, water and care for the young and elderly. Particularly in developing countries, the consequences of climate change can increase the burden for women and girls, for example, causing them to travel further to obtain daily supplies, leaving less time for paid work, school and potentially exposing them to greater risk to their personal safety.

ENDS

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